



View from the

Blackdown Hills

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Issue No 145 March 2017

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Rural arts scheme to come to an end

THE trustees of a rural performing arts scheme, which runs live music and theatre performances across the Blackdown Hills, is to come to an end due to cuts in funding.

Villages in Action (ViA) have decided to end the charity's rural touring scheme in its current format, but will explore ways to continue the scheme in a different format.

The current season of ViA performances taking place in villages across Devon, including Clayhidon and Sheldon among others, will be the last under the existing system.

ViA is a charity which works with volunteer promoters to bring performers and professionally-run arts workshops to rural areas.

However, within the last five years, the organisation has lost in the region of 80 per cent of its funding and, while three local authorities have continued to support ViA, reserves are now depleted.

A statement from the charity said: "In the light of this, after very careful consideration and consultation, the Board of Trustees felt that ViA would no longer be able to offer a viable and high

quality programme to villages.

"Mindful of its obligation to protect and safeguard the interests of the charity and its responsibility to staff, performers and promoters, the board will cease the touring scheme while the charity still has the financial reserves to meet its commitments."

The board's chairman and volunteer promoter, Catherine Devenish, added: "The board has thought long and hard about this decision.

"In the past year, we have had to ask villages to make a greater financial contribution to the cost of perform-

ers, but this is not sustainable, especially when future funding is so uncertain. Nor does providing a limited programme to a few villages fulfil the remit of the organisation.

"Some villages already operate their events programme in tandem with ViA performances and we hope others may feel able 'to go it alone' using the experience and advice they have gained from ViA.

"We are very grateful to everyone who has supported ViA and we will be spending the next few months looking at how the ViA legacy can continue."

Final ViA events include: Blues duo Kit Holmes and Al Greenwood playing Clayhidon Parish Hall on March 10th at 7.30pm. Tickets from 01822 810425; Folk/acoustic duo Mike Cosgrave and Steve Banks at Sheldon Village Hall on Friday, March 24th at 7.30pm. Tickets from 01404 841367; and Devon based Neil Maya Quartet at Awliscombe Village Hall on Friday, March 24th at 7pm. Tickets 01404 45145.

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Medal honour for Geoff

HEMYOCK resident, Geoff Pike, who served in the Royal Navy, and was stationed in Korea for more than two-and-a-half-years, has been given a medal from the South Korean Government.

Mr Pike is pictured with his medal declaring him an Ambassador for Peace.

See page 3 for full story



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Rare visitor spotted twice during farmland bird count

AN "off-the-cuff" farmland bird survey in East Devon last week suggested how habitat improvements can help some of our most threatened birds.

Devon Wildlife Trust land advisor David Rolls was visiting three farms in the Otter catchment in one day. As it was the beginning of the Big Farmland Bird Count, organised each February by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, David decided to do a short survey on each land-holding.

All three sites contain areas of wetland that are being improved for wildlife through DWT's Upstream Thinking work, funded by South West Water.

The 30-minute survey on each site recorded a total of 119 individual birds, with 28 different species seen.

Recording a jack snipe on

two different sites was a particular highlight.

A winter visitor to Devon, jack snipe are rarer than their larger and longer-billed relative the common snipe.

Other birds of interest recorded in numbers on the three farms in the upper Otter included redwings, starlings and treecreepers. Tawny owl, great spotted woodpecker and common snipe were also seen.

Landowner Roger Hicks, of Luppitt, in the Blackdown Hills, said: "We were really pleased to take part in the survey. We are fortunate to have a good number of birds on the farm. We really try hard to manage our hedges and wetlands for wildlife. We are very grateful for the advice and funding we are receiving through the Upstream Thinking project and we would certainly



■ JACK snipe by Dave Appleton

recommend it to others".

David Rolls, Devon Wildlife Trust Working Wetlands advisor added: "To see jack snipe on two different holdings was brilliant. I was with a student at the time and I was literally

holding the bird ID book open on the jack snipe page showing him. It was like it flew off the page!

"The number of bird species we saw on the survey is really a testimony to the work the

landowners are doing in managing these precious wetland sites in the River Otter catchment, in conjunction with the Upstream Thinking project."

The South West Water-funded project offers advisory farm visits, soil tests, manure sampling, free aerator loans, production of Integrated Farm Management Plans and assistance with applications for agri-environment and other funding.

In east Devon, this service is available throughout the Otter catchment and its tributaries the Wolf, Tale and Love.

For more information about the advice, grants and equipment available, farmers and landowners can contact Devon Wildlife Trust's David Rolls on 07976 513132 or Westcountry Rivers Trust's Yog Watkins on 07854 145896.

Businesses triumph at tourism awards



■ THE Milkshed in Luppitt won bronze in Self Catering Property of the Year



■ THE Old Kennels won Gold in Artistic, Cultural and Learning Experience



■ THE Thelma Hulbert Gallery won Silver in the Access and Inclusivity award.

BUSINESSES from across the Blackdown Hills did the area proud as they walked away from the South West Tourism awards laden with trophies.

Held in the Lansdown Suite of Ashton Gate Stadium in Bristol, Blackdown businesses triumphed against competition from across the region.

This year's awards event was hosted by ITV news presenter Kylie Pentelow, with an opening address by travel journalist and Chair of Family Holiday Association Alison Rice.

Alison was also this year's Chair of Judges and said: "Yet again the South West leads the way in tourism excellence. Whatever 2017 throws at this very special region of Britain, tonight's award winners will excel at what they do best - offering all comers the best possible visitor experiences."

Winners from the Blackdown Hills included; Deer Park Hotel in Honiton who picked up Gold in Dog Friendly Business of the Year; The Old Kennels, at Dunkeswell, near Honiton, won Gold in the Artistic, Cultural and Learning experience award; The Thelma Hulbert Gallery in Honiton won Silver in the Access and Inclusivity award; The Milkshed in Luppitt also went home with bronze in the Self Catering Property of the Year category with The Cottage Beyond at Kittisford Barton, near Wellington, also taking home Bronze; Dimpsey Glamping at Coombe St Nicholas near Chard, was awarded silver in Glamping Business of the Year category; and Taunton Tourist Information Centre won bronze in the Tourist Information Centre of the Year category.

Robin Barker of Services for Tourism added: "Excellence is elusive. It takes creativity, commitment, investment, and persistence to achieve. Standards have to be maintained for every guest, in all situations, at all hours of every day. Achieving excellence is one thing, maintaining it in a world of ever-rising expectations is an even greater challenge. So well done to all of this year's winners - you are at the cutting edge of this region's top industry and are genuine business icons."

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■ MR Geoff Pike with his medal declaring him an Ambassador for Peace, following his efforts during the Korean War

Korean War medal honour for Geoff

by Peter Hodges

A HEMYOCK resident, who served in the Royal Navy, and was stationed in Korea for more than two-and-a-half-years, has been given a medal from the South Korean Government.

Geoff Pike joined the navy at 22, and soon after, aboard the HMS Unicorn Aircraft carrier, helped to transport 90 aircraft to Southern Asia

Mr Pike says that he was initially supposed to be stationed in Singapore for 12 months, but after the Korean war broke out, ended up being in Asia for two-and-a-half-years.

Mr Pike said he felt immense pride receiving the award and would like to thank another Hemyock resident, Lieutenant Colonel Courtney, who helped him send off the correct papers.

After receiving the award Mr Pike said his medal had a trip around the village as everyone wanted to see it. Mr Pike worked as an able seaman and a radar oper-

ator during his time in the navy.

Mr Pike received a letter from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in London, which read: "I would like to extend my deepest appreciation for the dedication and sacrifice you gave with the Royal Navy in the name of peace and freedom for the people of Korea over 65 years ago.

"We are profoundly aware that Korea would not be who we are today without your help."

The Ambassador for Peace Medal is bestowed upon those who have served during the Korean War and is recognition of the legacy of freedom British troops made for the freedom of the Korean people.

The Official Proclamation from the Minister for Patriots and Veterans Affairs Republic of Korea, inscribed on the medal box reads: "We cherish in our hearts the

memory of your boundless sacrifices in helping us re-establish our Free Nation.

"In grateful recognition of your dedicated contributions, it is our privilege to proclaim you an 'Ambassador for Peace' with every good wish of people of Republic of Korea. Let each of us reaffirm our mutual respect and friendship that they may endure for generations to come."

Mr Pike said that one of his enduring memories of being stationed in Asia for that amount of time was visiting Hiroshima six years after the bomb and seeing a vapourised "shadow" on the granite steps of a bank in the city.

Body of missing man is found near monument

THE body of missing man, Paul Hyam, from Wellington, has been found.

Mr Hyam, 78, was last seen at his home in Wellington on Friday, August 26th.

On Tuesday, February 7th, a member of the public found a body close to the Wellington Monument, which has been positively identified as Mr Hyam.

Mr Hyam's family have been informed.

DI Angela Burton-wood said: "Firstly, our thoughts are with

Paul's family and friends at this very sad time.

"Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank communities in the Avon and Somerset and Devon areas who helped in sharing our appeals to find Paul.

"We were inundated with support from local people and businesses and it was hugely appreciated.

"This is not being treated as suspicious and we are preparing a report for the coroner."

GP surgery rated 'outstanding' by Care Quality Commission

THE Care Quality Commission (CQC) has found the quality of care provided by The Blackdown Practice in Hemyock, to be 'outstanding' following an inspection last year.

Inspectors rated the care at The Blackdown Practice outstanding for being caring, responsive to people's needs and well-led and good for being safe and effective.

Professor Steve Field, Chief Inspector of General Practice said: "I am delighted to highlight the exceptional service at The Blackdown Practice, people are entitled to services which provide safe, effective, compassionate and high quality care. The GPs and staff have demonstrated a real commitment to their patients.

"All of this hard work and dedication pays off in making a real difference for their patients - which is why we have found the practice to be outstanding. I hope other practices will see this service as a model for excellent care."

Ruth Rankine, Deputy Chief Inspector of General Practice in the South Region, said: "The Blackdown Practice is providing an exceptional service with high quality integrated care and treatment with an emphasis on good health and well-being. This service is a real asset to the

people living in Blackdown Hills.

"The practice was dedicated to delivering compassionate and responsive care, and worked closely with the local community to plan how services could better meet patient's needs. There was a clear vision to provide care that they themselves would like to receive.

"This is a great example of what outstanding care looks like."

Julia Cory, Head of Primary Care for NHS England in the South West, said: "This is a great acknowledgment of the hard work at The Blackdown Practice, which champions integrated health and social care in the local community. The practice successfully introduced the role of Practice Community Matron; which has provided vulnerable patients with greater preventative care and support. The outstanding rating reflects their commitment to continually look for innovative ways to provide the best care for their patients."

The report highlights a number of areas of outstanding practice, including:

- The practice was dedicated to delivering compassionate and responsive care to patients, particularly those with

long term conditions and older people who were frail and at risk of social isolation.

- People said care exceeded their expectations. There was a commitment to deliver co-ordinated care with other organisations and the local community to meet peoples' needs.

- The practice has driven innovation through a long term health conditions project with the local community, and appointed a community matron as a point of contact to provide anticipatory care to vulnerable patients.

- The practice pro-actively identified carers and worked with Devon Carers, a voluntary organisation to run monthly advice and support drop in session.

- There was a strong community approach, three GPs at the practice were founding members of a patient focussed charity based within the building that supported 300 patients each year. Patients could access many types of support from the charity, including: information, transport assistance support and social activities for vulnerable patients living in the community.

Full copy of the inspection report can be found at: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-570614725>

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Hemyock WI



THE president, Lynn Taylor welcomed members when they met in Forbes Lounge.

Lyn introduced Rosie and Lily who had come to talk about their experiences working with migrants on the Greek island of Chios. One night 28 boat loads of migrants arrived in one evening. As the numbers are so great, processing papers can take months before they can move on.

Conditions were not great, but the girls did an amazing job, to try and make life bearable.

One started up a school for younger children and another started French lessons. They also had a go at teaching them salsa dancing, which the migrants enjoyed.

The girls realised that a nice cup of tea was very welcome when conditions were so difficult so they are now embarking on a new venture. This venture is called "SOLIDARI TEA".

The girls have now set off for Ser-

bia. There are 2,000 refugees in Belgrade and Serbia does not deport any of them.

It is -16 degrees in Serbia at this time of the year. The girls are a bit apprehensive, but the van has a cosy sleeping area for them and Lynn, the WI president has made lovely curtains for it.

The girls are going to serve tea to migrants taking the Baltic Route. WI members were able to look inside the amazing van.

Before they left the hall, they judged the competition for a tea pot and awarded Daphne Shepherd first place. Lynn Taylor came second and Wendy Grabham third.

Lynn presented the annual prizes for most points gained in both competitions.

Brenda Calcraft came first for the flowers and Wendy Grabham first for the monthly competitions.

Lynn and secretary Cindy got through the business part of the

meeting quite quickly.

Business items included the spring council meeting at Torquay in April, the group meeting at Cullompton in March, names for lunch, and reports from the county quiz team and the skittles match against Bishopswood Ladies.

Subscriptions were also paid that night so no time for the usual quiz.

Lynn made a generous payment to the girls to help them on their way and they also had the proceeds from the raffle.

Since the meeting, Hemyock WI lost the skittles match by one pin and the quiz was enjoyed but did not come in the top three teams.

The beauty day in Exeter was also voted a success.

The next meeting will be at the Forbes Lounge on March 2nd at 7.30pm, will be origami with Richard Shepherd.

Clayhidon Friends

IAN Williams was welcomed to the Parish Hall to talk about St Margaret's Hospice in Somerset at the February meeting of Clayhidon Friends.

The hospice relies heavily on donations and like-minded people to raise money.

Having retired and wanting to keep active he decided, after careful planning to take the Ghorepani Poon Hill Trek in Nepal, in November 2015. It was for him an inspiring visit six months after Nepal had suffered a bad earthquake. He was astonished to see how much of the countryside was damaged and how hard it was for the villagers to re-build. It appeared that the older and historic buildings had suffered the most damage. Despite this their welcome was warm and caring.

The Porters, (who had quickly nicknamed Ian "Bergei" meaning "Grandad") wrapped the group's luggage up and strapped to their backs and heads and carried them. The Head Gurkha, Dahula, who was also a Buddhist monk, and Ian struck up a friendship that is set to carry on.

The trek up to Ghorepani first involved a very scary ride in a mini bus, which showed the group the devastation of the earthquake, along with all the villagers tending their crops of vegetables.

The trek up to the summit was achieved by climbing steps steadily, with plenty rest breaks. Once there the sense of achievement and emotion was tremendous. The view made it all worthwhile. A sunflower flag was erected to represent St Margaret's.

Ian said that coming down hurt far more!

All the group were moved by the hardships the drop in tourism was causing since the earthquake, along with India closing the border between themselves and China was putting on the country.

After the trek they visited a school, where the children walk two miles, through the countryside. The children were so welcoming, proud of their uniforms, and of their

knowledge of the English language. A chocolate cake with all their names was proudly presented to them, and quickly demolished.

On their return in the mini-bus they were halted because of a demonstration against India. Advised by the police they took a terrifying detour off the main highway back to Kathmandu.

As with most of the groups that come out, they do something to help. This time it was to paint the outside of the Cancer Hospital at Bhaktapur. Ian vowed never to decry our NHS when he saw the basic way in which these people carried out a marvellous caring job. Ian had felt so moved by this beautiful country's plight he decided to extend his visit to join the next group.

Whilst his visa and travel arrangements were being changed, Dahula acted as his guide inviting him into his home for meals, showing him temples, hospitals and street markets.

They also went to The Garden of Dreams and he was shown the real Nepal behind the tourism. With visa in place he joined a group who were there to re-build one of the village houses. With only two trained tradesmen in the group, they all worked hard, yet had time for fun and meals provided by the grateful family. This had been Dahula's 17th house he had been involved in helping.

Not willing to slow down since his retirement in 2015, Ian is now planning a trip in April to do the Machu Picchu Trek and Community Project in Peru. He is determined also to return to Nepal in 2019 to visit his new pal and help again.

After Ian's really enjoyable and informative talk, members were able to buy some of the fund raising items he had brought along and chat to Ian informally whilst enjoying Wendy and Anne's refreshments.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 19th where Clare Warren from Neal's Yard will talk about and show their products.

Blackdown Hills Transition Group

THE Last Transition (as far as we know) is Death.

Not everyone's favourite subject I know, but don't turn off just yet, you never know, good things may come from this.

I was in the Beehive community centre in Honiton the other day when I saw the poster for a "Death Café". I have read about these before but never managed to get to one. So, while I am writing about this event it is nothing to do with me, but I do hope to go.

Transition is all about how we might do things better, not just for me or you, but for everyone. We

know that many changes happen in society over time because of "progress" without anyone necessarily thinking about the consequences.

So, even though I am now 57 I have never plucked a chicken, or even gutted a fish. I must confess that all mine comes in plastic wrappers from the supermarket. In this and many other ways death has been "sanitised" and in some funny way is almost seen as "impolite".

The organisers say "people meet in a safe, welcoming space to drink tea and coffee, and eat cake whilst

talking about mortality and all that goes with it, so that they can get on with the business of living".

You can find out more at <http://deathcafe.com/deathcafe/4339/>

So if you are free on March 7th at 7pm, maybe I will see you in the café at the Beehive where we can discuss life in all its fullness.

(To book ring Gill: 07855117702 or email gill.amos@actioneastdevon.org.uk.)

Tim Clewer
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Blackdowns clubs and organisations

Blackdown Woodland Ramblings

By John Greenshields

WE are experiencing a bit of bad weather at the moment and this is the time of year when our trees are the barest and we can keep an eye out for disease and damage.

We need to be aware of trees "at risk" that may cause damage to property or the public. If they are in a private woodland that's fine, although I would advise any woodland owner to have public liability insurance. The owner of the land the tree is on is liable for any damage it may do. A tree adjacent to a public highway has to be assessed every two years.

Even if a tree has a tree preservation order (TPO) on it, it still can be culled if it can be proved that it is "at risk".

A lot of people are unaware that the 20m3 per year rule applies to old hedgerows as well as woodland, (that's the amount wood you can remove in one year for your own consumption) without applying for a felling licence. That's because older hedges that have not been cut for say more than 150 years are classed as woodland

and the same rules apply. This also applies to old pollarded trees, you can harvest the limbs but can not cull the whole tree.

The woodland Trust, together with Defra, are starting a new scheme for schools. Planting is a great experience for pupils and links to the National Curriculum in many ways, so DEFRA are keen to target schools that have never received a Woodland Trust tree pack before - and those that haven't planted trees for several years.

Participating schools are guaranteed a pack of 30 trees, complete with spirals and canes, and will gain two points towards their Green Tree Schools Award in the process. Larger tree packs will also be available to successful applicants through our Community Tree Pack scheme.

I have been a Woodland Trust volunteer for some time and I have to say that kids really enjoy the planting experience.

There is still time to plant a tree in March so why not pop one in.

Debut novel for Stockland author Alice

A STOCKLAND resident's debut novel based on her experiences in Ethiopia is set to hit bookshelves by the end of March.

Alice Allan's first novel *Open My Eyes, That I May See Marvelous Things* follows the story of an Ethiopian midwife, Mariam, who embarks on a project to protect an abandoned premature baby in Addis Ababa.

The book is inspired by Alice's own extraordinary experience working with midwives and new mothers in the Ethiopian capital championing skin-to-skin "Kangaroo care" for premature babies.

Alice grew up in Stockland, where her parents still live today, and after working as an actress and a corporate trainer, qualified as a lactation consultant after the birth of her children.

Alice trained hundreds of midwives in Ethiopia and has contributed articles on mothering and breastfeeding to a range of publications. She currently lives in Tashkent, Uzbekistan with her diplomat husband, two daughters and a large Ethiopian street dog called Frank. Alice still has a base in Stockland when she is back in the country.

The book will be published by Pinter & Martin and cost £9.99. The book was long listed for the MsLexia first novel award.



ALICE Allan's debut novel is worlds away from her upbringing in Stockland, near Honiton

Village hall extension plans approved

MID Devon District Council has given planning permission for an extension to Clayhidon Parish Hall.

The extension will include new toilets, a meeting room that would double as a dressing room

for performers, plus a upstairs room to be used for a parish archive.

The existing toilet block will be converted into a storage area.

Now the village hall need to discuss how the fund the exten-

sion project.

Clayhidon Parish Council has agreed to fund a car park extension, which has also been given planning permission, made possible by a donation of land from Russell and Caroline Bendle.

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Grants for school garden project

BUCKLAND St Mary Church of England Primary School, near Chard, has received the go-ahead for a brand new environmental education garden in its grounds.

The school is now seeking volunteers to help make the valuable new learning facility a reality.

Work on the garden is due to start this spring with the creation of a wildlife area and a pond. This will transform the area where the old nursery building once stood.

The garden has been made possible through a grant of £3,000 from the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Sustainable Development Fund.

The school also received support from Blackdown Hills Natural Futures, a three-year Heritage Lottery Fund project which is supporting local people to set up community wildlife projects and gain new skills in nature conservation. The Natural Futures team helped school staff and volunteers to plan the layout and fundraise for the garden.

Blackdown Hills Natural Futures Project Manager James Maben said: "What started as an idea during an environmental education session has grown into an exciting school project involving a host of local experts and volunteers.

"As well as creating important new habitat for wildlife, the project will ensure the school has a fantastic new outdoor learning space."

The school is looking for volunteers to help with creating the space. Anyone who has skills and time to share should contact the school.

Head of Buckland Primary School Steve Morton said: "Although we're in an area filled with natural beauty and wonder, there is little opportunity for children to get close up to nature in the school grounds. It seemed only right to take an area that been cover by concrete for more than 30 years and breathe new life into it.

"Once finished, our new environmental learning garden will be a great resource - for forest school, guided learning and play.

"I'd like to thank the AONB for the grant and the parents and local community who have already put in time to help get this project off the ground."



Pupils race for life for Cancer Research UK

STAFF and pupils from Plymtree School joined together last month to complete their own Race for Life for Cancer Research UK.

For the past month, children have been collecting sponsorship for the cause and all year groups from reception to year six took part in this event, completing either one, two or three laps around the village.

It was a bitterly chilly morning for the run, but the children powered through wearing their pink and blue clothing to show their support for Cancer Research.

Parents, grandparents and staff helped to steward the race and some took part as well.

After completion of the run, Headteacher Alex Cutler presented those who took part with medals to congratulate them on their efforts and to thank them for taking part in the Race for Life.

A school spokesperson said: "We were so very proud of the children's commitment and enthusiasm, many of whom were racing for someone they knew."

Medal haul for students at arts festival

A NUMBER of Wellington School pupils won outstanding accolades at the Taunton Festival of the Arts.

Singers and musicians across all ages won a range of awards including; Esta Felix in Year 12, who won first prize in two categories of Musical Theatre; Abigail Govey also won two first prizes in the Under 14 category; Naomi Jacob won first prize in the Under 12 piano category; and Frances Jameson and Marcia Reah won joint second prize

in the Under 12 woodwind category.

The boys performed with Kyle Miller coming second in the Under 12 1950's Musical Theatre category and Cameron Forrest came away with a massive haul of medals including the John Playall Cup for singing, the Sacred Solo category, and second place in two musical theatre categories.

The Lower School Girl's choir Bel Canto came first in the Under 12 category.

The Taunton Festival, which is held annually at the Methodist Church in Taunton, exists to encourage and promote the performance and enjoyment of arts.

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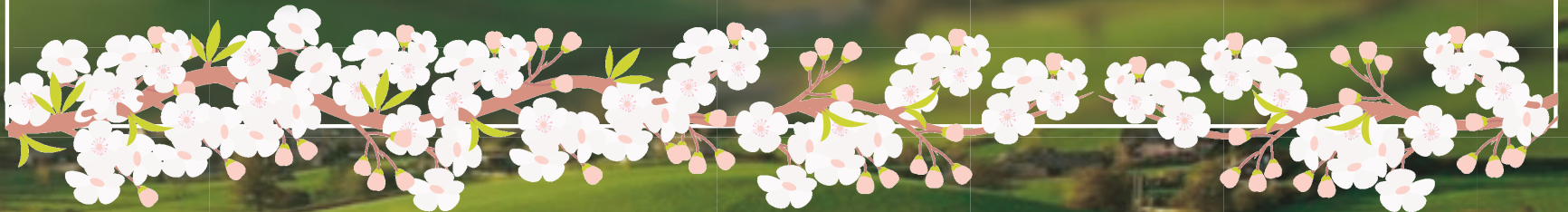
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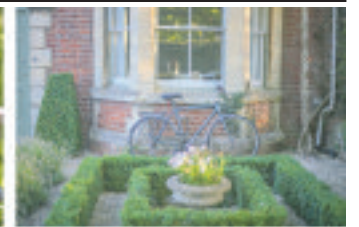
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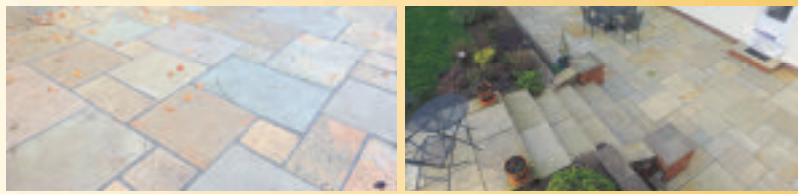
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HOW TO COLOUR YOUR MOOD

by Hannah Stephenson, Press Association



RED

"Red is a very stimulating colour - it's eye-catching, it can mean passion, danger and warning, but ultimately it's an exciting colour," says Massey, who uses Sanguisorba 'Tanna', Crocosmia 'Hellfire' and Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah' to energise and uplift in his own show garden. "Red comes to the fore if you want a vibrant bed."

ORANGE

Orange hues spark enthusiasm, fascination, happiness and creativity, combining the energy of red and the happiness of yellow. If you prefer an orange palette, you might try Achillea millefolium 'Terracotta' and Kniphofia uvaria 'Nobilis'.



YELLOW

Yellow is the colour of sunshine, associated with joy, happiness and intellect and produces a warming effect, arousing cheerfulness and stimulating mental activity, says Massey. It's an optimistic, positive colour and plants in this band include Helianthus annuus and Inula helenium.

PURPLE

Purple is associated with wisdom and dignity. Plants in this band include Veronicastrum virginicum 'Fascination' and Miscanthus 'Purpurascens'. Lilac and lavender shades also have a restful quality.

BLUE

Blue is often associated with depth and stability, symbolising trust, loyalty, wisdom, confidence and calm. Plants in this band include Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal' and Phlox 'Blue Paradise'.

BRIGHT COLOURS

Bright colours tend to look more vibrant in sunny settings, while blue and green palettes can flourish in semi-shaded areas, creating a cool, calm atmosphere.

At the centre of Massey's garden, is the screen of towering bamboo. The colour palette is pure green, the colour of nature, representing growth, harmony, freshness, stability and endurance. Green has healing power, it is the most restful colour for the human eye and it has strong emotional correspondence with safety and sanctuary.

"Different forms and textures can be visually exciting and stimulating, but if you have one single species it can create a calming, restful environment."

The Perennial Sanctuary Garden will be shown at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show from July 3-9.



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1. Prune bush and shrub roses.
2. Reseed bare patches on the lawn, if weather permits.
3. Mulch bare soil in beds and borders.
4. Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials.
5. Put stakes and other plant supports in before the new growth really needs them.
6. Finish planting bare-root trees and shrubs and new fruit trees and bushes.
7. Cut back climbers including honeysuckle, ivy and winter jasmine.
8. Cut down any growth left after winter, even if seedheads still look good, to make way for new growth.
9. Dress the soil with a fertiliser so it is ready for a layer of mulch.
10. Plant out early chitted seed potatoes with the 'rose' end uppermost.
11. Plant out bulbs grown for indoor use which have finished flowering.
12. Continue to sow hardy annuals in a cold frame or unheated greenhouse.

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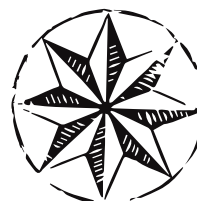
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what's on in and around the Blackdown Hills

Beauty of Blackdowns captured in exhibition

ASSOCIATED EVENTS

● Celebrated but Seedy: The Life of Walter Sickert

Thursday, April 27th, 7.30 pm, Museum of Somerset
A talk by Richard Kay, art historian and Director of Pictures at Lawrences, Crewkerne, on the life of Walter Sickert. £15 per person with cheese and wine.
Booking required via the Museum 01823 255088.

● Family Fun Day

Saturday, April 29th, 11am–4 pm, Museum of Somerset
A free family fun day based around the history, heritage and archaeology of the Blackdown Hills – the landscape which inspired the Camden Town artists.

● 'Talk and Tea': The Blackdown Hills – A Landscape of Patterns and Pictures

Friday, May 12th, 2.30pm–3.30pm, Museum of Somerset.
Linda Bennett, Blackdown Hills AONB Manager, will give a talk on the landscape of the Blackdown Hills and why it's special. £5 per person.

● In the Footsteps of the Camden Town Artists

Sunday, June 18th, 10.30am, Clayhidon
Explore the landscapes and buildings of the Blackdown Hills which feature in the paintings of the Camden Town Group. Local naturalist, Gavin Saunders, will lead a walk through the valley around Applehayes and Ringdown in Clayhidon to look for echoes of the artists' work. Suggested donation £5 per person. Booking required via the 01823 680 681.

AN exhibition of works by the Camden Town Group opens at the Museum of Somerset in Taunton on Saturday, March 25th.

A Fragile Beauty: Art on the Blackdown Hills 1909 to 1925 captures the beauty of this Somerset and Devon borderland in a period when the First World War was changing English society forever.

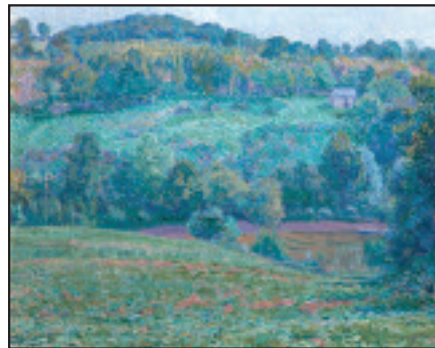
The Camden Town Group, led by Walter Sickert, was named after the London district where many of the artists lived and worked. Initially they painted contemporary urban life, but later they were drawn to the countryside, especially the Blackdown Hills.

Inspired by the example of the impressionists and post-impressionists, artists such as Spencer Gore, Charles Ginner and Robert Bevan created Somerset and Devon landscape paintings of great freshness and immediacy.

"They came to Applehayes, Clayhidon, as the guests of Harold Harrison, an estate owner and amateur artist," Tom Mayberry, Chief Executive of the South West Heritage Trust, explained.

"The Blackdown Hills were remote and artistically unexplored when they arrived there and their paintings are a wonderful celebration of landscape. Though the world they knew was so different from ours, many of the landscapes and buildings they painted have hardly changed."

A Fragile Beauty is the first major exhibition at the Museum of Somerset to rely entirely on loans from other museums and from private collectors. Loans include Spencer Gore's *Applehayes* (pictured right) from the Ulster Museum, and Charles Ginner's *Landscape with Farmhouse* from Manchester Art Gallery.



The exhibition also includes works from private collections that have rarely been seen in public.

The museum has worked with the fine art auctioneers, Lawrences of Crewkerne, who, together with private donors, and the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) have very generously sponsored and supported the exhibition. A varied public programme of associated events is being delivered, including opportunities to enjoy the specially protected landscape of Blackdown Hills AONB as it is today.

A Fragile Beauty has been created in partnership with the Somerset-based curators and art historians Denys Wilcox and Richard Emeny.

The exhibition runs from March 25th March to July 8th and is free of charge.

Skills of the Hills returns

THE annual Skills of the Hills event, which returns to the Blackdowns this month, is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

The annual hedgelaying competition, organised by the Blackdown Hills Hedgelaying Association, has become a popular event in the hills with people travelling far and wide to take part.

This year the event will take part at Chubbs Farm, Alston, near Axminster (postcode: EX13 7LG).

The event will take place on Saturday, March 4th, with gates open at 9.30pm and admission £2 per car.

For more information visit www.bhha.info.

Charity big breakfast

CLAYHIDON Local Committee will be hosting a big breakfast event to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

The fundraiser will take place on Saturday, March 11th from 9am to 1pm at Clayhidon Village Hall.

To book a place call 01823 680481.

To advertise call
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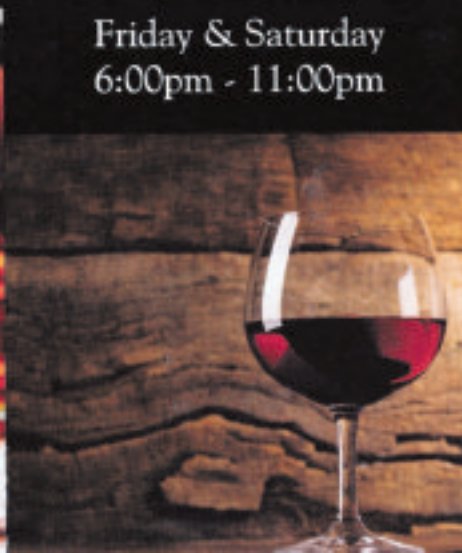


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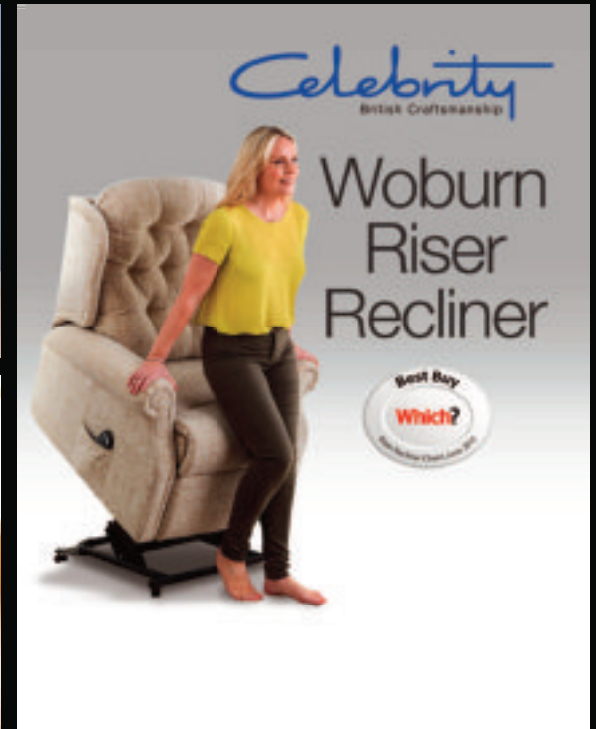
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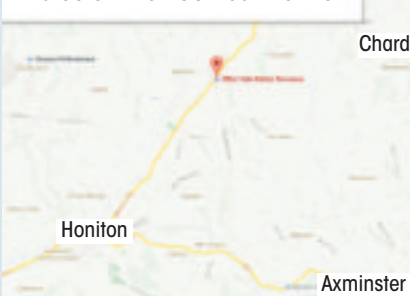
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2011/11 BMW 318 D M SPORT 5 DOOR ESTATE, Manual, Diesel, White, 120,000 Miles, £30 Road Tax, 13 Months Warranty, Stunning Example, Full Service History, One Previous Owner, Full MOT, Warranted Mileage, Air Conditioning, Cruise Control, Park Distance Control**£7,495**



2006/06 BMW 320 CD SE 2 DOOR COUPE, Manual, Diesel, Grey, 67,000 Miles, Full Service History, 2 Previous Owners, Excellent Example, Full MOT, Warranted Mileage, Parking Aid (Rear), Cruise Control, Air-Conditioning**£5,495**



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2012/62 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI TEKNA 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, Manual, Diesel, White, 54,000 Miles, 13 Months Warranty, One Owner From New, Superb Example, Full Service History, Full MOT, Warranted Mileage, Nissan Connect with Touch Screen Navigation, Heated Front Seats**£8,495**



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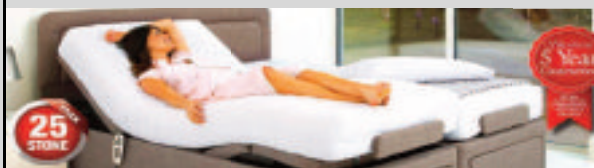
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